

GETTING INTO WORDS: DICTIONARY AND THESAURUS

Students practice using the dictionary and thesaurus

Zone In

One Minute Review

1. Ask for volunteer reviewer to review CD, TV show, book, movie, etc.
2. Give 2 minutes to think.
3. Give 1 minute to present: facts (who, what), opinions, recommendations.
4. Ask if others know the thing reviewed. Do they agree/disagree? Want to follow the recommendation?

Topic

Using a dictionary and thesaurus

(Materials: Index cards)

Introduction

Ask: What is the difference between a dictionary and thesaurus? Do you ever use them? Where would you find them?

Explain: Dictionaries are used to look up a word's definition, spelling, pronunciation, part of speech, and origin. They start with the letter A and end with Z. Words on the page are in alphabetical order.

The thesaurus is used to look up synonyms (words that mean the same), antonyms (words that are opposite), and parts of speech. Like dictionaries, they start with A and end with Z, with words on the page in alphabetical order.

Activity

Dictionary game: Sound like a dictionary and write convincing definitions!

- Hand out an index card to each student.
- Ask for a volunteer to pick a random word from the dictionary and read it aloud without giving the definition. That student writes the word and a short version of its definition on the card.
- The other students have 2 minutes to write the word and a definition on their cards. They do not have to write the real definition—they just have to make their definition sound good.
- Collect the cards. The student who picked the word mixes together the cards, then reads each definition without giving away the real definition!
- Each student votes for a definition. If they guess the correct definition, they get a point. And, if others vote for their definition, they get a point for each vote.
- Students take turns selecting the word and reading definitions.

Wrap Up

Ask: Does anyone use the Internet for dictionary and thesaurus sites? Can they recommend sites?